IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 14, lines 8-22, please amend as follows.

In a simple aspect of the invention, the overhead generator 106 selects a first number of locations for a first number of frame synchronization bytes, in response to commands on line 130 ~~132~~, and the overhead receiver 124 selects the first number of locations for the first number of frame synchronization bytes. However, the overhead receiver need not select all the location provided by the overhead generator 106. For example, the overhead generator 106 selects a first number of locations for a first number of frame synchronization bytes, and the overhead receiver 124 selects a second number of locations for a second number of frame synchronization bytes, less than the first number, and synchronizes the received frame in response to recognizing frame synchronization bytes in the second number of selected locations. Momentarily examining Fig. 2, the overhead generator 106 may supply FSBs in locations OH 1 through OH 6, while the overhead receiver selects locations OH 4 through OH 6 for use.